

U.S. Serial No. 10/722,790
Response to OA of 1/23/06
Response dated 2/21/06

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 19 and 20 are amended herein. Claims 25-28 are cancelled. New dependent claims 29-34 are first presented herein.

Claim Amendments and Support for New Claims

Claims 19 and 20 are amended herein to recite a "first alkylation catalyst" in place of "a first catalyst" in order to provide better antecedent basis from claim 17. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 25-28 have been cancelled and rewritten in dependent form as new dependent claims 29-33. Applicant submits that the support for new dependent claims 29-33 is based on cancelled claims 29-33 and that no new matter has been added.

New claim 34 is first presented herein. The support in the specification as filed for new claim 24 may be found at paragraph [026] in the specification as filed.

Restriction Requirement

In the Official Action mailed on January 23, 2006, Examiner imposed a requirement for restriction and election of species for the application under 35 USC 121 for claims 1-24 (Invention I) and claims 25-28 (Invention II), on the grounds that Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. In order to better define the invention, Applicant has replaced claims 25-28 with dependent claims 29-33 all of which are dependent on base claim 17. Applicant submits that all of the claims, as amended herein, obviates Examiner's requirement for restriction.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above Amendment and Remarks place the application in order for examination on the merits. Entry of the Amendment and early allowance of the claims, as amended, are therefore respectfully requested. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been presented to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

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